

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 SCA-01 H-03 AGR-20 EB-11

PA-03 PRS-01 SCSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

RSR-01 /098 W

----- 022954

R 221425Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9934

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONGEN CASABLANCA

AMCONGEN TANGIER

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 3916

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR MO

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF PROPERTIES BELONGING TO VOA'S TANGIER
RELAY STATION

REF: RABAT 3777

1. FOLLOWING EMBASSY'S DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AUG 14
(SEE REFTEL), VOA TANGIER ADVISED EMBASSY THAT A GOM
COMMISSION WOULD VISIT VOA PROPERTIES TO TAKE INVENTORY PRIOR
TO REPOSSESSING THESE PROPERTIES. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
REQUESTED USG REPRESENTATIVE BE PRESENT TO SIGN RECORD OF
INVENTORY.

2. EMBOFF CONTACTED TANGIER COMMISSION CHARIMAN AND WAS
ADVISED THAT SIGNATURE OF RECORD BY USG REP WOULD NOT IN ITSELF
IMPLY ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICABILITY OF MARCH 2 DECREE ON RECOVERY OF
FOREIGN-HELD AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO VOA PROPERTIES. COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT USG REP NOTE IN REMARKS SECTION OF
RECOGD THAT LAND WAS NOT AND WOULD NOT BE USED FOR AGRICULTURAL
PURPOSES. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT RECORD OF INVENTORY WOULD THEN
BE HANDLED AS SPECIAL CASE IN RABAT AND PROPERTIES WOULD
ULTIMATELY BE TAKEN OFF LIST OF THOSE TO BE RECOVERED. WITHOUT
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USG REP'S SIGNATURE AND STATEMENT, RECORD WOULD BE PROCESSED

LIKE OTHERS INVOLVING AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AND TASK OF SEPARATING PROPERTIES FROM AGRICULTURAL LANDS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT. ON AUG 16 MFA EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GHALI BENHIMA ADVISED AMBASSADOR THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR US TO SIGN RECORD.

3. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY PREPARED STATEMENT NOTING ITS VIEW THAT MARCH 2 DECREE DID NOT APPLY TO VOA PROPERTIES, POINTING OUT THAT EMBASSY HAD RAISED MATTER FORMALLY WITH MFA, AND INDICATING THAT MFA HAD REFERRED CASE TO SPECIAL COMMISSION IN RABAT. STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT SIGNATURE BY USG REP INDICATED ONLY THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT WHEN COMMISSION VISITED PROPERTIES. ON AUGUST 17, CONGEN COURTENAYE IN TANGIER HAD THIS STATEMENT AFFIXED TO COMMISSION'S RECORD, AND SIGNED RECORD ON THIS BASIS. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED SECOND NOTE TO MFA EXPLAINING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CONGEN SIGNED RECORD AND REQUESTING ONCE MORE CLARIFICATION OF GOM'S ATTITUDE TOWARD VOA PROPERTIES.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS HERE RECENTLY THAT GOM IS FOCUSING ON PROBLEM OF NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS WHICH HAVE BEEN LISTED FOR RECOVERY UNDER THE MARCH 2 DECREE. PRESS HAS INDICATED THAT NUMBER OF SUCH PROPERTIES IS LARGE. ROCKWELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT03916
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730822/aaaaaqdb.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RABAT 3777
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONALIZATION OF PROPERTIES BELONGING TO VOA'S TANGIER RELAY STATION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005